

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2084

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, UY

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY OF WILSON FERREIRA

1. REP. KOCH, IN A CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ITEM OF AUGUST 23, ENTITLED, "WHY DOES NOT THE STATE DEPARTMENT COME CLEAN ON URUGUAY?" STATED, "IN A JULY 14 LETTER TO ME, RYAN RESPONDED TO MY REQUEST FOR A BIOGRAPHY AND EVALUATION OF WILSON FERREIRA.." FURTHER ALONG, HE SAID: "ON JULY 7 THE URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT INDICTED FERREIRA 'FOR SUBVERSION'." "I THINK THIS IS A VITAL PIECE OF INFORMATION. WHY THEN DID THE STATE DEPARTMENT NEGLECT TO INCLUDE IT IN AN EVALUATION OF FERREIRA? THERE ARE TWO POSSIBILITIES: THE U.S. EMBASSY IN URUGUAY DID NOT INCLUDE THIS INFORMATION IN ITS REPORT OR THE STATE DEPARTMENT DECIDED TO DELETE IT IN WRITING ITS LETTER TO ME. EITHER WAY, I BELIEVE IT REPRESENTS A SERIOUS BREACH IN THE CREDIBILITY OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT AS A WHOLE".

2. WE BELIEVE THAT THE FOLLOWING CHRONOLOGY SHOULD BE PASSED TO CONGRESSMAN KOCH TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT:

A) ON JULY 21 (7 DAYS AFTER THE DEPT'S. REFERENCED LETTER TO KOCH) THE DEPARTMENT (STATE 179998) CABLED THE EMBASSY STATING THAT FERREIRA'S SON HAD INFORMED THE DEPARTMENT THAT HIS FATHER'S PROPERTIES HAD BEEN CONFISCATED. THE DEPARTMENT ASKED THE EMBASSY FOR CONFIRMATION OR DENIAL.

B) ON JULY 23 THE EMBASSY RESPONDED (MONTEVIDEO 2760) THAT IT HAD LEARNED THAT FERREIRA'S PROPERTIES HAD BEEN EMBARGOED. OUR SOURCE, A PERSON CLOSE TO FERREIRA POLITICALLY, PERSONALLY AND PROFESSIONALLY, SAID HE "ASSUMED EMBARGO WAS A PRELUDE TO FURTHER

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LEGAL ACTION AGAINST FERREIRA". THUS, AS OF JULY 23, NOT ONLY WERE

WE UNAWARE OF ANY JULY 7 INDICTMENT, BUT ALSO ONE OF FERREIRA'S CLOSEST ASSOCIATES WAS UNAWARE OF IT. WE HAD ALSO BEEN UNAWARE OF EMBARGO OF THE PROPERTY UNTIL QUERIED BY THE DEPARTMENT. C) ON THE EVENING OF AUGUST 4 THE PRESS OFFICE OF THE JOINT FORCES ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE INDICATING THAT AN ORDER HAD BEEN ISSUED FOR WILSON FERREIRA'S ARREST. THE EMBASSY CABLED THE INFORMATION TO THE DEPARTMENT AUGUST 5 (MONTEVIDEO 2911). THE ARREST ORDER IS NOT FOR "SUBVERSION" BUT FOR "SUBVERSIVE ASSOCIATION".

3. IT IS CLEAR FROM THE RECORD THAT NEITHER THE EMBASSY NOR THE DEPARTMENT (BASED ON EMBASSY REPORTS) COULD HAVE TOLD REP. KOCH ABOUT ANY INDICTMENT IN A LETTER ON JULY 14 AS THE INFORMATION WAS NOT AVAILABLE AT THAT TIME.
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